

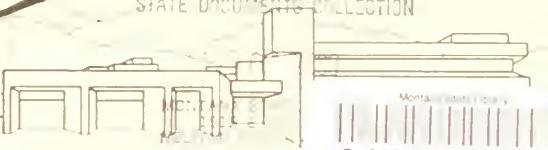
Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library



News

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION



Montana State Library

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Inez Herrig, (center) Lincoln County Librarian for the past 58 years, joins Library Commission Chair, Mary Hudspeth and State Librarian, Sara Parker, to display the sign for Lincoln County Library's new reference room.

COMMISSION DISCUSSES WLN

The Montana State Library Commission met August 19th at the Missoula Public Library. Items on the agenda included approval of Sagebrush and Golden Plains' Plans of Service. There was discussion of Western Library Network's plans to change its governing structure. Commissioners approved a new policy on time-to-let limits on LSCA Title II funded project construction bids. The Commission also voted to amend the Administrative Rules to change the number of members of the Library Services Advisory Council. It was reported that WLN

is in need of additional funds to upgrade equipment and software and for research and development. There are several options for exploration of funding still under discussion by the Washington State Library Commission. The Montana Library Commissioners feel an agreement between WLN and the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) would probably be the most feasible option.

In other business, the motion was passed that, beginning with FY 1988, LSCA Title II funded construction bids be let within 15 months of the Commission's construction award. Failure to comply will cause the award to revert to the Commission.

Also passed was a motion to amend the Administrative Rules to reduce the number of Advisory Council members from 10 to 8. Commissioners felt it unnecessary to have 10 members because Advisory Council meetings are never attended by all of the 10. The Administrative Rules were approved as amended.

COMMISSION HEARS FROM COMMITTEES

The Library Commission held its October 14th meeting in Ronan in the combined school/public library. The commissioners approved the Pathfinder Federation Plan of Service. They heard reports from the Technology Committee (formerly the Automation Committee) and recommendations from the Collection Development Committee.

The Technology Committee interim report was a survey of all available bibliographic utility services. The report includes a summary of the status of WLN's plans for governance and financial restructuring. The Washington State Library Commission has directed the Washington State Librarian to work aggressively toward a change in WLN's governance and (SEE WLN ON PG. 2)

Montana's contribution to communications from the Montana State Library is now available. The Commission has directed that the library continue its development of the state's resources concerning state history through the State Library's publication development program with the state library director. In effect, the Library Commission has now revised a statewide system which libraries can use in stating their collection development policies.

For more information about stating a collection development policy, the Library Commission should contact Barbara Johnson, State Librarian.

CHANGES IN THIS STAFF

Barry, Mrs., Mrs., Associate Director, Director of the State Library Reference Department, has been appointed State Librarian of the Montana Department of Education System Services Division. She succeeds Mrs. Mary E. Schaeffer, who has accepted a position with the University of Montana's Department of Education System Services Division.

The new State Librarian will be responsible for the development, operation, and retrieval of electronic data systems in the State Library's reference collections. She will also be responsible for the development and implementation of the State Library's electronic data systems.

She succeeds Mrs. Mary E.



CENTENNIAL COMMISSION SANCTION FOR LIBRARIES

The Montana Centennial Commission met September 2nd to survey the first centennial commission-sanctioned products to reach the market. The sale of these products will help pay for the statewide centennial celebration in 1989. Libraries can receive centennial commission sanction too. While profit-making organizations will be required to give a percentage of profit to the centennial effort, centennial-related library projects, if sanctioned, can be financed and can use the little bit left for a service fee. Applications for sanctioning are available from the centennial office, P.O. Box 1952, Capital Station, Helena, MT 59604. 447-1952.

LSUA FUNDS APPROPRIATED

Mike Schenck, Chair of the Montana Library Selection and Service Council, announced recently that \$100,000 of 1988 LSUA funds will go to the library commission at the commissioners' August meeting. The following expenditures were approved:

1. \$12,000 for the institutional library project previously approved by the

commission.

2. \$27,000 for a Reference/Information Pilot Program (see story in this issue).

3. \$8,000 for an interlibrary loan study.

The commission directed that more descriptive details about a \$90,000 appropriation for a school/public library demonstration project be provided before that project could be approved.

The Montana Library Services Advisory Council is seeking ideas for use of 1989 LSUA grant funds. The council will meet Nov. 3 in Helena.

To obtain criteria for grant ideas, interested persons should contact Sheila Bates at the State Library.

"800" NUMBER TO BE INSTALLED IN STATE LIBRARY

An LSUA-funded Reference/Information Pilot Project will be in operation on November 3rd. The pilot program will feature an "800" number (800-330-5001) to be installed in the Montana State Library Reference & Information Services. The number will be used by Montana libraries requiring ready reference information not available in their own collection. The program will also provide training opportunities for librarians.

Use of the 800 number at MSL and other libraries will be analyzed to determine the amount and type of ready-reference questions generated by Montana libraries. Ready reference questions are those that

can be answered quickly, usually through consultation of one reference resource.

Objectives of the project are to improve, statewide, the quality of information service to library users and to provide training to upgrade skills of those librarians providing information.

MONTANA'S FIRST CULTURAL CONGRESS ATTRACTS VARIED GROUP

The varied interests and points of view of the participants at Montana's first Cultural Congress created a lively atmosphere at the Billings orientation September 12-14. The self-appointed delegates came from all parts of the state. There were technical engineers from grassroots television stations and there were owners of prestigious art galleries. Librarians, sculptors, musicians and politicians were among the approximately 200 persons who came together to express their concerns about and their hopes for Montana's cultural future.

The sponsors of the event, the Montana State Library, the Montana Committee for the Humanities and the Montana Arts Council were there to listen to participants' ideas about where to direct state agency resources in the near future.

Besides serving as a forum for these ideas, the conference featured several well-known speakers including writer, Ivan Doig and Governor Ted Schwinden, who both spoke of their personal experiences as creators and guardians of



Diana Dowling, Director of the Montana State Lottery draws a name of a Cultural Congress Scholarship recipient. Dowling doesn't yet know Big Spin entries.

the cultural history of the state.

The second day of the congress saw the delegates breaking into small discussion groups whose task it was to form resolutions to be used as guidelines for the sponsoring agencies. Of the 50 resolutions, many confront library issues.

It was decided by participants that the 50 resolutions will be studied by the heads of the sponsoring agencies and their commission chairs who will condense the list to a few key resolutions. The slimmed-down list of resolutions will be sent to the Cultural Congress participants for voting. The list of resolutions approved by the participants will then be used by agencies and other administrative bodies to determine the needs of the cultural community.

PROJECT EXCELLENCE MEETS IN HELENA

Project Excellence, a project of the Montana Board of Public Education,

took its first steps forward with an organizational meeting in Helena on September 10. The goal of Project Excellence is to design education for the next century. The project is innovative, said Mary Roldano of the Office of Public Instruction, because it deals with outcome rather than input based standards.

Chairpersons for 8 "action groups" have been selected. The chair of the Administration, Library Media, Guidance and Counseling action group is Mignon Waterman, a Helena school district trustee. Among the other members of the committee are two librarians - Jonn York, Kalispell Elementary/Junior High School and Avis Anderson, Dawson County High School.

In May, 1988, public hearings will be held in 9 cities around Montana. The compilation of the committee findings and input from the public meetings will be presented to the 1989 legislature, as per the legislature's request.

AROUND THE STATE

Burlington Northern made a \$12,000 grant to the Bicentennial Library of Colstrip. The grant will be used for a computer and for library furnishings for their new facilities in the rural services building.

A travelling exhibit, "Is It To Be A Nation?" will be in Billings at the Parfley Buildings Library, on Tuesday, 2 through March 15, 1988. Many buildings have at least libraries in the United States selected to host the exhibit which is based on the first public library exhibit.

The Montana Faxnet Program will select its 1988 winners in October to receive regional and national recognition. The awards are given for the best information access, by using a telephone or computer system. For more information, contact Marlene Gruenbeck, State Librarian, 406-444-6430, or write for receipt of applications by Sept. 10.

The Lewis & Clark Library in Belgrade offers a monthly

special to its users. Featured on display at the library are works by Helena artists Dale Livezey, a painter and David Reagan, a potter.

The Great Falls Public Library will hold its 20th anniversary celebration on November 12. The celebration plans include an open house, a "mortgage burning" ceremony and the formal dedication of the library's meeting room. The staff is planning promotions and displays in connection with the event.

It was erroneous, reported in the July/August issue of the State Library Newsletter that the Glasgow Public Library had a union list of Montana's more current titles were. In reality, the Glasgow Public Library is working on federal union lists.

Tim Moffatt resigned as director of the Glasgow Library effective Sept. 22.

The Livingston Public Library will soon be the first small library in Montana to have a fully automated circulation desk. The switch to automation is

almost complete. Livingston also purchased, with an LSCA/LIRN grant, a LaserJet system.

Izella Warner, librarian from Fort Belknap needs library equipment, furniture and supplies to equip the new Fort Belknap College/Public Library. Warner says there is no funding available to purchase items for the library. Persons who are able to supply furniture, card catalogs, cardexes or supplies should contact Izella Warner, Route 1, Box 8, Chinook, MT 59526, 357-2230 (day), 357-2533 (evenings).

The Montana Arts Council will offer a one-day seminar on Fundamentals of Endowment Development for those wanting to explore developing endowments for their organizations. The seminar will be held November 10 in Billings at the Parfley Buildings Library and November 16 in Helena at the Lewis & Clark Public Library. Interested persons should contact Bill Pratt, Montana Arts Council, 35 S. Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT 59620 444-6430.

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Montana Department of
Commerce
Montana State Library
100 W. Capital Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-3962

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Montana State Library
100 W. Capital Avenue
Helena, MT 59620-3962

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Alvin Randall, Librarian

Libby Senior High School
150 Education Way
LIBBY, MT 59923